

(a) whether in view of the escalation in oil (petrol) prices, the Government propose to use alcohol as fuel which is in abundance in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) to (c). Studies and trials are currently being conducted to establish the techno-economic viability and to overcome possible operational problems related to the use of alcohols as a substitute for petrol. However, its commercialisation would in addition to the above depend on the sustained availability of alcohols, which is at present limited.

LPG Consumption in the Country

4699. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:
SHRIMATI DIPIKA CHIKHLIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the per capita consumption of LPG in the country;
- (b) the per capita consumption thereof in Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat separately;
- (c) the total demand of LPG separately in Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat as on October 31, 1991; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to enhance the supply of LPG to these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATU-

RAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) and (b). The per capita consumption of LPG during the year 1990-91 was as under:

<i>per customer/year</i>	
All India	131.4 Kg.
Andhra Pradesh	123.2 Kg.
Gujarat	113.7 Kg.

(c) Total consumption of LPG during April-October 1991 is as under:

Andhra Pradesh	97,488 MTs
Gujarat	1,21,933 MTs

(d) The demand of LPG has been always, considerably higher. Steps to augment availability include increased indigenous production alongwith imports.

Revival of Aerial Spraying on Cotton Crops

4700. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are considering to revive the aerial spraying operations on cotton crops;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reasons for revival of this operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). Government of India have accorded sanction for operation of aerial spraying on cotton crop under the Centrally Sponsored

Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme during 1991–92. The scheme provides for operational charges @ Rs. 125/- per ha.

(c) The programme of aerial spraying which was in operation during the Seventh Plan, has been revived to protect the cotton crop from severe attack of pests which causes heavy loss to the crop.

Sick Wells in Bombay High

4701. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick wells in Bombay High up to October, 1991 and the number of wells closed so far;

(b) the quantum of production of oil reduced due to such closure;

(c) the proposal of the Government to tide over the present situation and augment the oil production; and

(d) whether any foreign collaboration has been made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) The number of sick/ idle and non-flowing oil wells/strings in the Bombay High field as on 1.11.1991 was 79.

(b) 0.59 MMTPA

(c) Shortfall in domestic production is made up through imports. Five oil field development projects have also been approved to augment production.

(d) No, Sir.

Non-Aligned Movement

4702. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) ;

(b) whether there was any proposal to merge NAM and G-7 Countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALERO): (a) India played a catalytic role in the deliberations of the recent Ministerial level meeting of Nonaligned countries in Accra from 2–7 September. India has also actively sought to strengthen the role of the Nonaligned Movement in international affairs by activating the Nonaligned Coordinating Bureau and the Nonaligned Caucus in the Security Council.

(b) and (c). A proposal to merge the Nonaligned Movement and the G-77 was discussed at the Ministerial meeting in Accra. However, the Committee on Methodology set up by the Ministerial Conference held in Nicosia in 1988 was mandated to report on the creation of a Joint Coordinating Committee.

[*Translation*]

Coal mining contracts to Foreign Companies

4703. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of contracts given to foreign companies in coal sector;